



Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee

Date: September 26, 2019

Time: 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Lincoln Town Hall, 16 Lincoln Rd, Lincoln, MA 01773, Donaldson Room

Minutes

Attendance: Clarissa Rowe, Chair (Arlington); Richard Canale, Vice Chair (Lexington); Ali Carter, Secretary (Arlington); George Parsons, Arlington; Paul Fennelly, Arlington; Heather Gill, Concord; Connie Raphael, Mass DOT; B.J. Dunn, Minute Man NPS; Jeanne Krieger, Lexington; Paula Vaughn-MacKenzie, Lincoln.

Guests: Beth Williams, Tourism and Visitor Services Manager, Town of Concord; Bob Domnitz, Lincoln resident

Minutes of June 27, 2019 meeting accepted unanimously.

1. Discussion of **Reviving America's Scenic Byways Act of 2019 Law, and next steps.**

The Federal Byway program has been recreated, and criteria for designation must be released within 90 days of enactment. New designees will be announced within a calendar year. There are two designations within the program, which are a National Scenic Byway and an All-America Road.

Richard described that the Battle Road Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan of 2013 (CMP) was written to prepare the committee for federal designation. He suggested that we add the CMP to BattleRoadByway.com, which Ali agreed to do. According to the CMP we already meet several of the criteria for federal byway designation. Richard will circulate the list of criteria to the group.

2. What help can we elicit from MassDOT or MAPC or Freedom's Way? Richard spoke with MassDOT to ask for funding or consulting assistance with the federal byway designation. Connie agreed to provide a letter of support and potentially more assistance.
3. What are the items that are undone and needed for federal designation application?

The committee may apply for technical assistance from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to help update the CMP in preparation for applying for a federal designation.

B.J. asked what the difference was between an All-America Road and a National Scenic Byway. Richard stated that an All-America Road is nationally significant and a Scenic Byway is regionally significant. We will need to study the criteria carefully to decide which designation to apply for.

4. Status of Town and agency contributions and steps to get our five entities on board for our Federal designation application.

Several ideas for funding the application process were discussed, including a District Local Technical Assistance grant from MAPC and a grant from Freedom's Way. It was also suggested that a committee member ask one of our local legislators to file legislation for funding from the state.

The funding from each town toward the committee is at the following levels:

Concord--\$2,000

Arlington--\$2,000 annually

Lincoln--\$2,000 (CPA grant for signage)

Between now and the next meeting each committee member will brainstorm about ways to find availability of local funds for the application and on a long-term, sustaining basis. Municipal, private, and nonprofit funding ideas are all welcome.

The committee agreed that we also should build a wayfinding and signage plan into the CMP update.

5. Website updates

Ali reported that an Arlington High School student is trying to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award by developing a walking tour of Battle Road sites that have a granite marker in town. Ali will add these marker locations and her tour to BattleRoadByway.com once they are completed.

Ali will also add the Freedom's Way logo to the website.

6. Article for the Scenic Byway Foundation newsletter. Need a volunteer to write an article.

Paul Fennelly volunteered to write an article for the newsletter.

7. Town/Park updates

- a. Lincoln---Minuteman Regional Vocational High School is coming back to the Planning Board with a sound analysis. There are concerns from residents about crossing Rtes. 2 and 2A. Rt. 2A project being scheduled.
- b. MassDOT---will report on Rt. 2A project at next meeting.
- c. Lexington---Visitor Center construction is beginning. Temporary tactical bike lanes on eastern portion of Mass Ave have received mixed response from community.
- d. Concord---Pending farming proposal on town land near Minute Man NHP.

Beth Williams introduced herself as the new Tourism and Visitor Services Manager for the Town of Concord. It is a new position, and she oversees the Visitor Center and its 14 part-time staff. The Visitor Center is open on weekends through December. She is working on creating a website with updated branding. Also working on wayfinding and working closely with Lexington on tourism and economic development issues.

- e. Arlington---Weekday morning dedicated bus lane has been made permanent. Phase I of the Whittemore Park Revitalization Project has begun. Old Burying Ground project starting.
- f. Minute Man---B.J. went to DC for 3 days of NPS meetings to plan the semiquincentennial events. Emphasizing accessibility and connecting 1775-76 events to contemporary themes. Barrett's Farm will have funding in FY2020 to have site open for visitors in 2025. Visitor Center work commencing and scheduled to be completed by spring 2020. Friends of Minute Man NPS has new part-time executive director and a new website. Friends group started monthly e-newsletter, and email B.J. if you want to be added to the mailing list. Artist in residence pilot at Minute Man Visitor Center.

8. Next meetings are October 24, November 21, and December 19th.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.